FAQ

What is the policy for students who do not participate in a state mandated test?

Data collected on state mandated testing includes participation data and achievement data. Utah code 53A-1-1110 requires a school to have 95% participation on state mandated tests or the school receives the letter "F" on the school report card. The 95% participation requirement is intended to encourage schools to include all students, regardless of their achievement level so the school achievement score is an accurate representation of school performance.

Aggregated participation data and achievement data are included in school report cards and in the EdFACTS submission file required by the US Department of Education. EdFACTs is submitted to the Department of Education each year and includes aggregate data on all students enrolled in public schools. All students are included in the EdFACTS submission either as a test participating student or a test non-participating student. As the majority of students participate in state testing, students who do not participate due to an absence or refusal to test, are still included in an aggregate score that may be a smaller group of students than the aggregate score for students who participate in the tests.

Students absent from school during test administration

Test Participation

If a student is absent from school on a testing day (ill, out of town, medical appointment, etc.) the school has a lower percentage of participation for the school report card.

Test Achievement

The absent student does not receive a test score and is not included in the school's proficiency/achievement calculation.

Students in attendance at school during test administration but opt out of testing

Test Participation

If a student is in attendance at school on a testing day but opts to not participate in testing, there is no impact on the participation requirement (95%).

Test Achievement

If a student/parent opts to not participate in a test, the test receives a non-proficient score and is included in the school's proficiency calculation for that test.

With this guidance, districts and charter schools are encouraged to develop local policies. Parents are encouraged to contact their schools or districts for additional clarifications and procedures in regards to state testing participation.